

Georgia's Pre-K Program 2016-2017 Providers' Operating Guidelines Updates

This document highlights program guidelines updates for the 2016-2017 school year. This is not a complete listing so please read through the entire 2016-2017 School Year Pre-K Providers' Operating Guidelines for all updates.

Student Support - Section 6.0

This section is new and was developed to assist providers with supporting children with developmental and behavioral concerns. This section includes information on suspensions, modified days and disenrollment.

Salary Requirements – Section 12.3

This section includes the 2016-2017 credential/certification requirements and base salaries for Lead Teachers.

- Two Year Degree (Grandfathered Associate Degree or Montessori Diploma) \$21,029.27
- Bachelor's Degree not related to Early Childhood Development \$26,780.00
- Early Childhood Education or Early Childhood Education Related Degree or Higher Credential (Masters, Specialist, etc.) \$26,780.00
- Four Year Degree and T4 Certification \$35,118.35
- Master's Degree and T5 Certification \$39,552.00

Pre-K providers are required to pay 90% of the lead teacher base salaries listed above. The minimum salary amount does not include any additional compensation or benefits the lead teacher may receive.

Lead Teacher Salary Components – Section 12.6

Beginning in the 2016 -2 017 school year, the lead teacher salary will have two components, base salary and supplemental compensation. This section includes information about base salary and supplemental compensation including the amount providers are required to pay lead teachers.

Creditable Years of Experience – Section 12.7

Supplemental compensation is based on the lead teacher's Creditable Years of Experience (CYE). This section defines CYE and includes information regarding verification of CYE.

Assistant Teacher Salaries - Section 13.4

Updated information regarding salaries for Assistant Teachers is included in this section. All credentials for an assistant teacher will be paid at the minimum rate of \$15,561.66. The minimum salary amount does not include any additional compensation or benefits the assistant teacher may receive.

Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS) – Section 15.1

On June 27, 2016, the GaPDS replaced the Professional Development Registry (PDR). When the PDR was upgraded to the GaPDS, information from the PDR transferred to the GaPDS. This section includes information on the GaPDS.

Operating Costs – Section 17.2

This section is new and includes information about Pre-K operating costs. Examples of operating costs and benefits are provided in this section.

Rosters – Section 18.6

This section has been updated to include information about changes in reporting lead and assistant teacher information in PANDA. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the Teacher Information Screen in PANDA will remain open throughout the school year, and programs are required to use it to update lead and assistant teacher information whenever there are changes. Students' information will continue to be reported on four roster reports during the school year.

<u>Lost, Stolen or Destroyed Records – Section 20.10</u>

This section is new and provides guidance to programs in the steps to take in the event that records for Georgia's Pre-K Program are lost, stolen or destroyed by natural or man-made disasters.

Requests for a Georgia's Pre-K Program Change of Ownership- Section 21.6

This section was updated to clarify the change of ownership process for providers.